

FORM PTO-1390 (REV. 12-2001)		U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE	ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER
TRANSMITTAL LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES DESIGNATED/ELECTED OFFICE (DO/EO/US) CONCERNING A FILING UNDER 35 U.S.C. 371			U.S. APPLICATION NO. 10/049272
INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO. WO 01/15132	INTERNATIONAL FILING DATE 18.08.2000	PRIORITY DATE CLAIMED 19.08.99	
TITLE OF INVENTION CONTROL OF DEPTH MOVEMENT FOR VISUAL DISPLAY WITH LAYERED SCREENS			
APPLICANT(S) FOR DO/EO/US. ENGEL, Gabriel, Damon WITEHIRA, Pita			
Applicant herewith submits to the United States Designated/Elected Office (DO/EO/US) the following items and other information:			
<p>1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This is a FIRST submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371.</p> <p>2. <input type="checkbox"/> This is a SECOND or SUBSEQUENT submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371.</p> <p>3. <input type="checkbox"/> This is an express request to begin national examination procedures (35 U.S.C. 371(f)). The submission must include items (5), (6), (9) and (21) indicated below.</p> <p>4. <input type="checkbox"/> The US has been elected by the expiration of 19 months from the priority date (Article 31).</p> <p>5. <input type="checkbox"/> A copy of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2))</p> <p> a. <input type="checkbox"/> is attached hereto (required only if not communicated by the International Bureau).</p> <p> b. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> has been communicated by the International Bureau.</p> <p> c. <input type="checkbox"/> is not required, as the application was filed in the United States Receiving Office (RO/US).</p> <p>6. <input type="checkbox"/> An English language translation of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2)).</p> <p> a. <input type="checkbox"/> is attached hereto.</p> <p> b. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> has been previously submitted under 35 U.S.C. 154(d)(4).</p> <p>7. <input type="checkbox"/> Amendments to the claims of the International Application under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3))</p> <p> a. <input type="checkbox"/> are attached hereto (required only if not communicated by the International Bureau).</p> <p> b. <input type="checkbox"/> have been communicated by the International Bureau.</p> <p> c. <input type="checkbox"/> have not been made; however, the time limit for making such amendments has NOT expired.</p> <p> d. <input type="checkbox"/> have not been made and will not be made.</p> <p>8. <input type="checkbox"/> An English language translation of the amendments to the claims under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371 (c)(3)).</p> <p>9. <input type="checkbox"/> An oath or declaration of the inventor(s) (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(4)).</p> <p>10. <input type="checkbox"/> An English lanuage translation of the annexes of the International Preliminary Examination Report under PCT Article 36 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(5)).</p> <p>Items 11 to 20 below concern document(s) or information included:</p> <p>11. <input type="checkbox"/> An Information Disclosure Statement under 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98.</p> <p>12. <input type="checkbox"/> An assignment document for recording. A separate cover sheet in compliance with 37 CFR 3.28 and 3.31 is included.</p> <p>13. <input type="checkbox"/> A FIRST preliminary amendment.</p> <p>14. <input type="checkbox"/> A SECOND or SUBSEQUENT preliminary amendment.</p> <p>15. <input type="checkbox"/> A substitute specification.</p> <p>16. <input type="checkbox"/> A change of power of attorney and/or address letter.</p> <p>17. <input type="checkbox"/> A computer-readable form of the sequence listing in accordance with PCT Rule 13ter.2 and 35 U.S.C. 1.821 - 1.825.</p> <p>18. <input type="checkbox"/> A second copy of the published international application under 35 U.S.C. 154(d)(4).</p> <p>19. <input type="checkbox"/> A second copy of the English language translation of the international application under 35 U.S.C. 154(d)(4).</p> <p>20. <input type="checkbox"/> Other items or information:</p>			

U.S. APP. NO. <u>212</u> INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO. <u>NO 01/15132</u>				ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER	
21. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The following fees are submitted: BASIC NATIONAL FEE (37 CFR 1.492 (a) (1) - (5)): Neither international preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) nor international search fee (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) paid to USPTO and International Search Report not prepared by the EPO or JPO. \$1040.00 International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) not paid to USPTO but International Search Report prepared by the EPO or JPO \$890.00 International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) not paid to USPTO but international search fee (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) paid to USPTO \$740.00 International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) paid to USPTO but all claims did not satisfy provisions of PCT Article 33(1)-(4) \$710.00 International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) paid to USPTO and all claims satisfied provisions of PCT Article 33(1)-(4) \$100.00 ENTER APPROPRIATE BASIC FEE AMOUNT = 1040				CALCULATIONS PTO USE ONLY	
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CLAIMS	NUMBER FILED	NUMBER EXTRA	RATE	\$	
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Independent claims	6 - 3 =	3	x \$84.00	\$ 252	
MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM(S) (if applicable)				+ \$280.00	
TOTAL OF ABOVE CALCULATIONS =				\$ 550	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Applicant claims small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27. The fees indicated above are reduced by 1/2.				\$ 795	
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CONTROL OF DEPTH MOVEMENT FOR VISUAL DISPLAY WITH LAYERED SCREENS

TECHNICAL FIELD

This invention relates to a visual display system.

BACKGROUND ART

- 5 Particularly, the present invention relates to a visual display system including multi-level screens which are placed physically apart.

Such screens are described in PCT Application Nos. PCT/NZ98/00098 and PCT/NZ99/00021.

- 10 These devices are created by combining multiple layers of selectively transparent screens. Each screen is capable of showing an image. In preferred embodiments the screen layers are liquid crystal display. Preferably the screens are aligned parallel to each other with a pre-set distance between them.

- 15 With this device images displayed on the screen furthest from view (background screen) will appear at some distance behind the images displayed on the screen closer to the viewer (foreground screen). The transparent portions in the foreground screen will allow viewers to see images displayed on the background screen.

This arrangement allowing multiple screens allows images to be presented at multiple levels giving the viewer true depth without use of glass or lens.

- 20 Up until now, software has been written to create visual sequences on the multi-level screens. These sequences have been mainly passive, mainly for viewing rather than for interaction.

While the visual effect of these sequences is spectacular, it will be desirable if

potential uses of a multi-level screen display could be explored further.

It is an object of the present invention to address this problem, or at least to provide the public with a useful choice.

Aspects of the present invention will now be described by way of example only with
5 reference to the following description.

DISCLOSURE OF INVENTION

According to one aspect of the present invention there is provided a visual display system including

multi-level screens spaced physically apart,

10 wherein each screen has a two-dimensional plane,

a visual indicator,

an input device,

a user selectable input,

the visual display system being characterised in that

15 the user can use the user selectable input to move the visual indicator via the input device out of the two-dimensional plane of a particular screen.

According to another aspect of the present invention there is provided a method of using a visual display system which has multi-level screens spaced physically apart,

wherein each screen has a two-dimensional plane,

20 the visual display system also including

a visual indicator,

an input device,

a user selectable input,

the method characterised by the step of

- 5 the user using the selectable input to move the visual indicator out of the two-dimensional plane of a particular screen and on to another screen and on to another screen.

One aspect of the present invention there is provided media containing instructions for the operation of visual display system as described.

- 10 In preferred embodiments of the present invention the multi-level screens are similar to that described in PCT Application Nos. PCT/NZ98/00098 and PCT/NZ99/00021, although this should not be seen as limiting.

The term two-dimensional plane refers to the effective viewing plane on a particular screen, similar to that seen on a normal display screen.

- 15 The visual indicator may be any type of indicator, for example a cursor, image, icon or screen image. It is envisaged that the visual indicator is something which can move in response to the user of the system via some input mechanism.

The input device may be any suitable input device, for example a mouse, tablet data glove, keyboard, touch screen, joystick, trackball, pen, stylus, touch pad, voice and so

- 20 forth.

The user selectable input is preferably an input the user can make to effect the operation of software running the display device via the input device.

For example, if the input device is a mouse, then the user selectable input may be a mouse button. If the input device is a joystick, then the user selectable input may be the trigger. If the user input is a keyboard, then the user selectable input may be arrow keys. And so forth.

- 5 We envisage that the present invention could be used extensively by those in the graphics industry. Therefore one embodiment in the present invention is envisaged that by having the input device as a pen or stylus, the present invention could be utilised in these industries to its fullest.

- 10 In some embodiments, the user selectable input may actually be a software button on a touch screen that may be independent of the input device. This allows standard input devices and drivers to be used without modification.

- 15 In further embodiments of the present invention, the input device shall be referred to as a mouse and the user selectable input shall be referred to as a mouse button. The mouse button may be an existing button on the mouse, or in some embodiments may be a dedicated button for use with the present invention.

This should not be seen as limiting.

The visual indicator shall now be referred to as a cursor, although this should not be seen as limiting.

- 20 The user can use a mouse to move a cursor around a display screen as can be achieved with usual software. However, with one embodiment of the present invention, the user can then click a particular mouse button to cause the visual indicator to move from one screen to another screen. In one embodiment the applicant uses the centre button or a configurable button on a three button mouse, but this should not be seen as limiting

An preferred embodiments the software controlling the cursor position is supplemental to usual mouse drives.

Therefore a program can run as usual with standard mouse drive commands but the cursor position between screens can change as a consequence of the interaction of the
5 supplemental program responding to the additional input from the mouse.

This ability enables the user to actually interact with different screens and work on separate screens in terms of having an input device which can interact with whichever screen has been selected. The advantages of this feature are self apparent.

In some embodiments, the movement from the two-dimensional plane of one screen
10 to another screen may be discrete and it may appear that the visual indicator merely jumps from one screen to the other and be at the same x-y coordinate with the only change being in the z axis.

In other embodiments, there may be more of a linear movement perceived as a consequence of the movement from one screen to the other.

15 For example, the present invention may be used in conjunction with a drawing package. The person drawing may start drawing on the front screen of the visual device using the mouse and cursor.

The person then may wish to take advantage of the three dimensional quality allowed by the present invention and effectively draw in the z axis (the x and y axis having
20 already been drawn in on the two-dimensional screen). This may be achieved by the user clicking the mouse button and dragging the cursor effectively so it appears to pass from one screen to the other screen with an image (say a line) appearing to provide a visual bridge between the front screen and another screen or screens in the background.

In other embodiments of the present invention this ability may be used with particular total screen images. For example, the present invention may be used with an interactive game which gives the impression that the user is moving deep within a scene. For example, the user may be flying a craft in the game and as the user moves
5 forward in the game, the images may pass from the background screen or screens to the foreground screen giving the illusion of full movement. In this embodiment the visual indicator may be the images and the input device a joy-stick.

Aspects of the present invention will now be described with reference to the following drawings which are given by way of example only.

10 BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS

Further aspects of the present invention will become apparent from the following description which is given by way of example only and with reference to the accompanying drawings in which:

Figure 1 illustrates one embodiment of the present invention, and

15 Figure 2 illustrates a second embodiment of the present invention, and

Figure 3 illustrates a third embodiment of the present invention.

BEST MODES FOR CARRYING OUT THE INVENTION

Figures 1a and 1b illustrate a stylised version of one embodiment of the present invention at work. These figures have foreground screens 1 and background screens
20 2.

It should be appreciated that the reference to just two screens is by way of example only and the present invention may work in relation to multiple numbers of screens.

Figure 1a shows the positioning of the visual indicator 3 in the form of a cursor arrow

on the front foreground screen 1.

In this embodiment of the present invention a simple click of a mouse button causes the cursor 3 to appear in exactly the same x y coordinates as on the foreground screen one, but, positioned on the background screen 2.

- 5 Thus in this embodiment, the user selectable input merely does a direct transpose in the z axis between screens.

Figure 2 likewise has a foreground screen 1 and a background screen 2. In Figure 2a, a triangle 4 has been drawn on the x y two-dimensional plane of the foreground screen 1.

- 10 In Figure 2b, to give the triangle 4 depth, the user has selected and dragged the image in the x y direction to give not only the image of a triangle 5 on the background screen 2, but also a plane in the z axis 6 for finding a solid-looking representation. As the screens are physically quite separate, the illusion of the solid wall 6 is accomplished by sophisticated software shading techniques.

- 15 Figure 3 again has a foreground screen 1 and background screen 2.

This embodiment of the present invention can be used for moving through three-dimensional landscapes. For example, in Figure 3a, there is pictured a flower 7 on the foreground screen, tree 8 along with a cloud 9 are positioned on the background screen 2.

- 20 The user may then use the input device to effectively move through the scene visually. This causes the flower depicted in Figure 3a to disappear from the foreground screen as shown in Figure 3b. This also causes the tree 8 to move from the background screen 2 to the foreground screen 1. The cloud 9 being in the far background stays on the background screen 2.

Thus it can be seen that the present invention allows considerable amount of interaction between the user and the screens.

Aspects of the present invention have been described by way of example only and it should be appreciated that modifications and additions may be made thereto without
5 departing from the scope of the appended claims.

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NUMBER 2.

CLAIMS:

1. A visual display system including
multi-level screen spaced physically apart,
wherein each screen has a 2 dimensional plane,
a visual indicator,
a input device,
a user selectable input,
the visual display system being characterised in that
the user can use the selectable input to move the visual indicator via the input device
out of the 2-dimensional plane, and onto another screen where both screens display
images simultaneously.
2. A visual display system as claimed in claim 1 wherein the visual indicator is a cursor.
3. A visual display system as claimed in either claim 1 or claim 2 wherein the input
device is a mouse.
4. A visual display system as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 3 wherein the user
selectable input is a mouse button.
5. A visual display system as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 4 which includes
software supplemental to the software drivers for the input device to cause the visual
indicator to move from one screen to another screen.
6. A visual display system as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 5 wherein the visual
indicator moves to a different z axis coordinate, but the same x - y coordinate.

AMENDED SHEET
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- APT 34 AMPT
7. A visual display system as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 6 wherein the movement of the visual indicator from one screen to another screen gives the appearance of providing a visual bridge between the screens.
8. A visual display system as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 7 wherein the visual indicator is a screen image.
9. A method of using a visual display system which has multi-level screens spaced physically apart,
- wherein each screen has a 2 dimensional plane
- the visual display system also including
- a visual indicator,
- a input device,
- a user selectable input,
- a method of characterised by the step of the user using the selectable input to move the visual indicator out of the 2-dimensional plane and onto another screen, where both screens display images simultaneously.
10. A method as claimed in claim 9 wherein a visual indicator is a cursor.
11. A method as claimed in either claim 9 or claim 10 wherein the input device is a mouse.
12. A method as claimed in any one of claims 9 to 11 wherein the user selectable input is a mouse button.
13. A method as claimed in any one of claims 9 to 12 which includes software supplemental to the software drivers for the input device to cause the visual indicator to move from one screen to another screen.
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14. A method as claimed in any one of claims 9 to 13 wherein the visual indicator moves to a different z axis coordinate, but the same x - y coordinate.
15. A method as claimed in any one of claims 9 to 14 wherein the movement of the visual indicator from one screen to another screen gives the appearance of providing a visual bridge between the screens.
16. A method as claimed in any one of claims 9 to 15 wherein the visual indicator is a screen image.
17. A visual display system as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 8 wherein the input device is a pen.
18. A method as claimed in any one of claims 9 to 16 wherein the input device is a pen.
19. A method substantially as herein described with reference to and as illustrated by the company drawings.
20. A method of using a visual display system substantially as herein described with reference to and as illustrated by the accompanying drawings.
21. Media containing instructions for the operation of a visual display system as claimed/or described herein.

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau



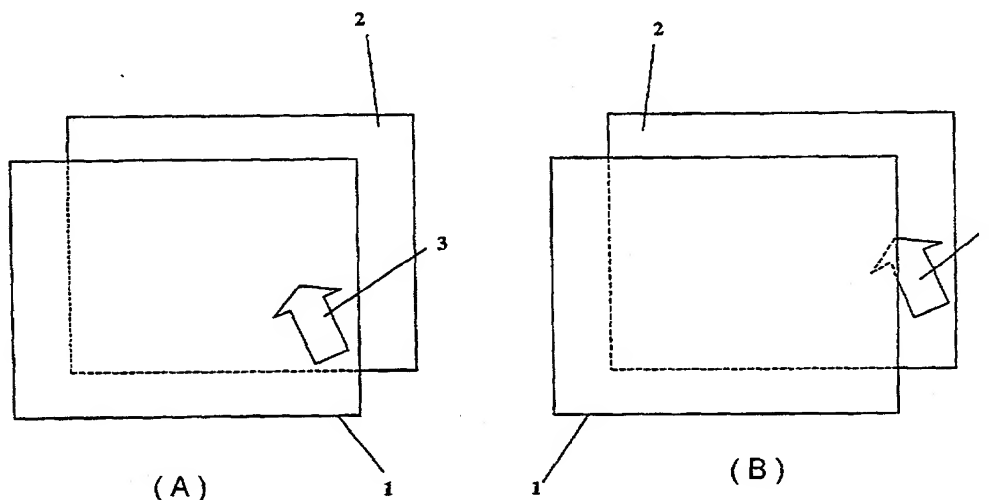
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(54) Title: CONTROL OF DEPTH MOVEMENT FOR VISUAL DISPLAY WITH LAYERED SCREENS



(57) Abstract: A multi-level visual display system has a plurality of screens (1, 2) spaced in the depth direction. A user can move a visual indicator such as a cursor (3) between the screens (1, 2), via an input device such as a mouse button. In drawing applications a visual link such as a line can be created between two screens. In game applications a user can move an image both within and between screens (1, 2), by dragging a cursor while moving it between the screens, to provide an illusion of three dimensional movement. The screens (1, 2) may comprise layered liquid crystal displays.

Fig. 1

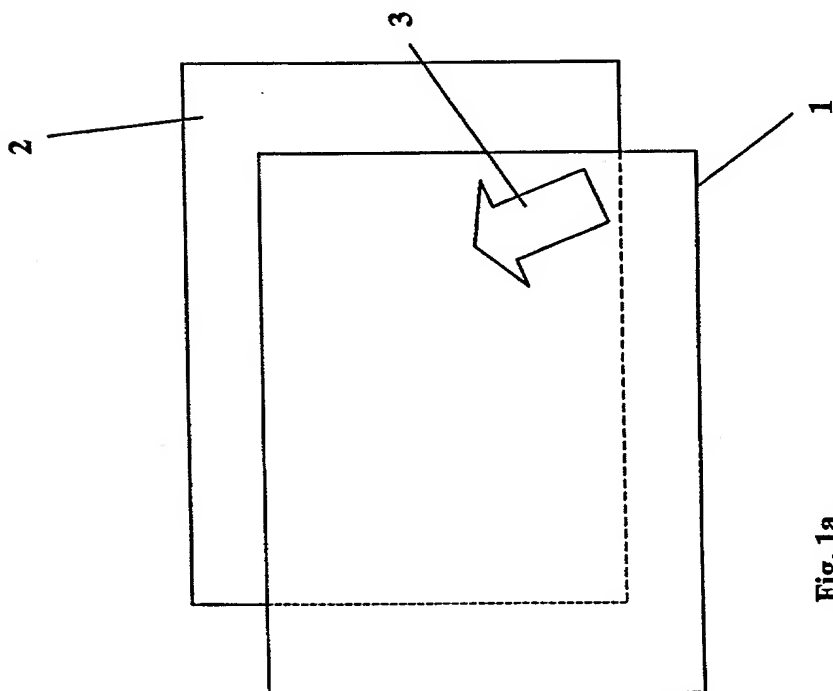


Fig. 1a

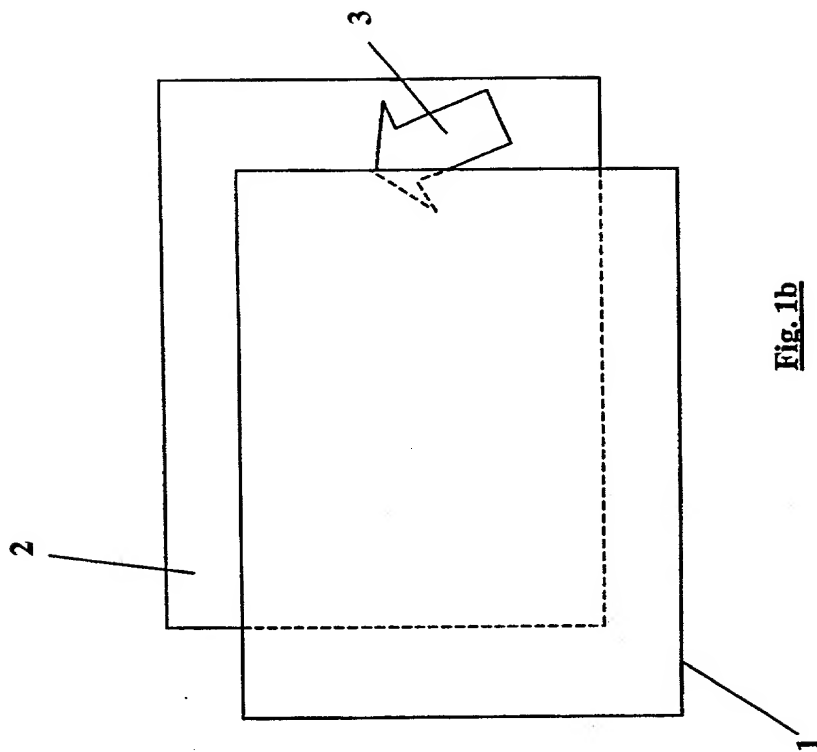


Fig. 1b

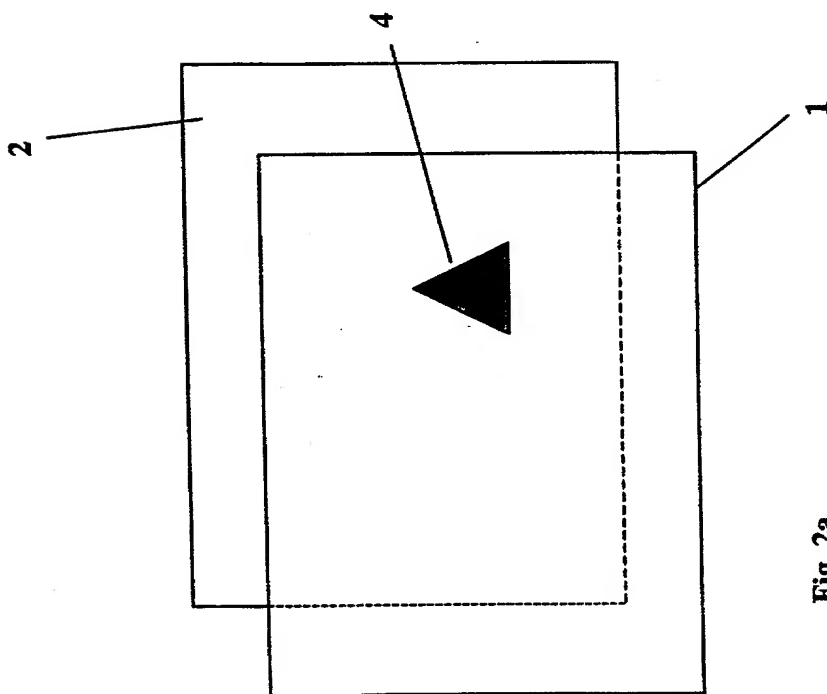
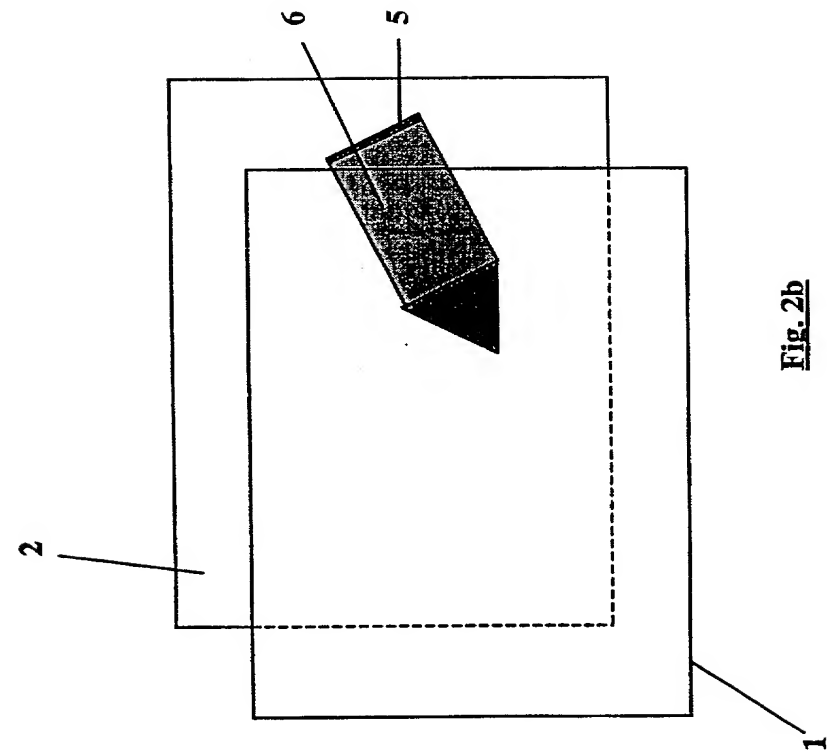


Fig. 2

Fig. 3

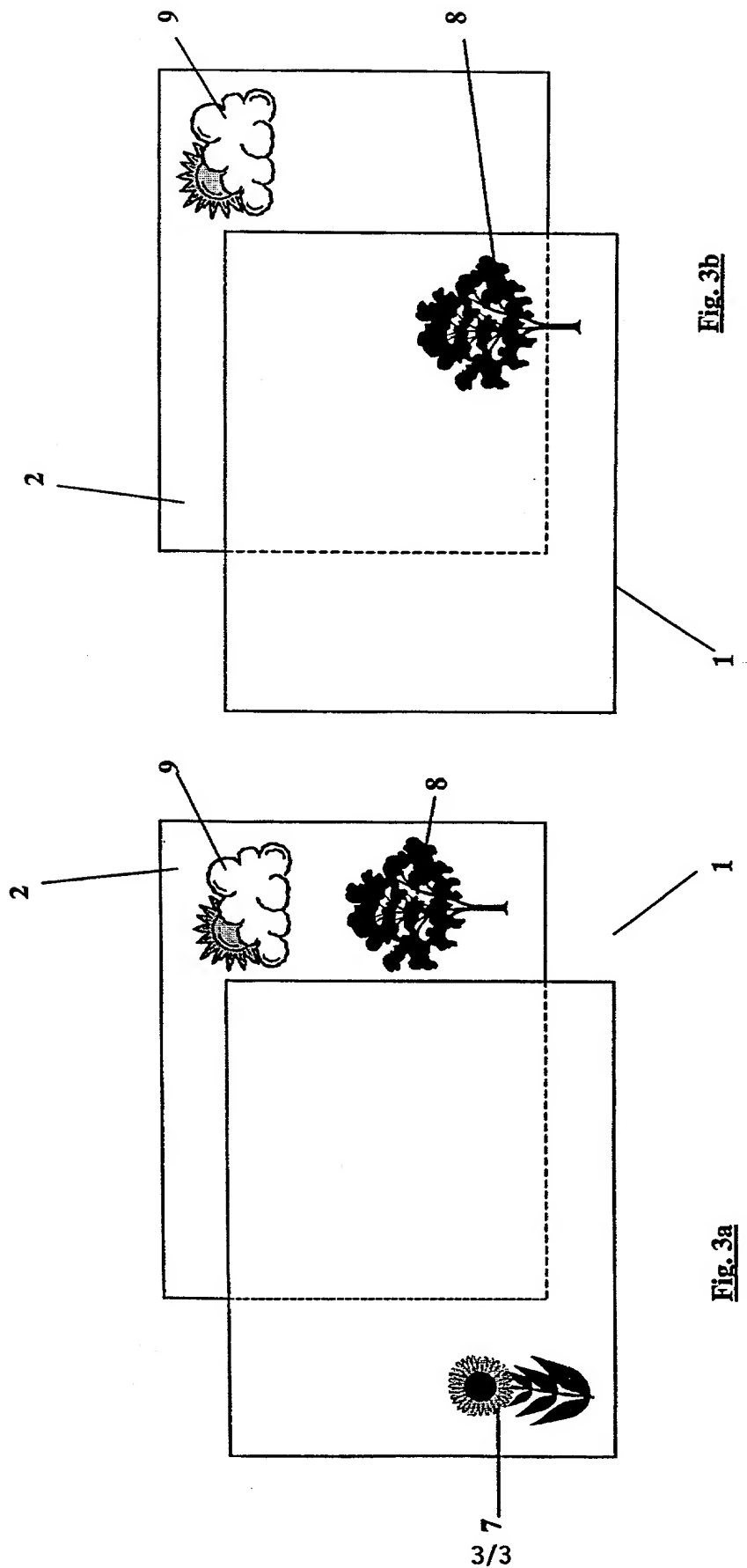


Fig. 3a

Fig. 3b

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As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, mailing address, and citizenship are as stated below next to my name.

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CONTROL OF DEPTH MOVEMENT FOR VISUAL DISPLAY WITH LAYERED SCREENS
 (Title of the Invention)

the specification of which

☐ Is attached hereto

OR

☐ was filed on (MM/DD/YYYY)08/19/99

as United States Application Number or PCT International

Application Number

WO 01/5132

and was amended on (MM/DD/YYYY)

(if applicable).

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment specifically referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR 1.56, including for continuation-in-part applications, material information which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of the continuation-in-part application.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d) or 365(b) of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate, or 365(a) of any PCT international application which designated at least one country other than the United States of America, listed below and have also identified below, by checking the box, any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate, or any PCT international application having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed.

Prior Foreign Application Number(s)	Country	Foreign Filing Date (MM/DD/YYYY)	Priority Not Claimed	Certified Copy Attached?	
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			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

☐ Additional foreign application numbers are listed on a supplemental priority data sheet PTO/SB/02B attached hereto:

I hereby claim the benefit under 35 U.S.C. 119(e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below.

Application Number(s)	Filing Date (MM/DD/YYYY)	<input type="checkbox"/> Additional provisional application numbers are listed on a supplemental priority data sheet PTO/SB/02B attached hereto.

[Page 1 of 2]

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NAME OF SOLE OR FIRST INVENTOR:

☐ A petition has been filed for this unsigned inventorGiven Name (first and middle (if any)) Gabriel DaemonFamily Name or Surname EngelInventor's Signature [Signature]Date Feb 1, 2002Residence: City Hamilton

State

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City Hamilton

State

ZIP 2001Country New Zealand

NAME OF SECOND INVENTOR:

☐ A petition has been filed for this unsigned inventorGiven Name (first and middle (if any)) PitaFamily Name or Surname WitehiraInventor's Signature [Signature]Date 3/01/2002Residence: City Hamilton

State

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City Hamilton

State

ZIP 2001Country New Zealand☐ Additional inventors are being named on the _____ supplemental Additional Inventor(s) sheet(s) PTO/SB/02A attached hereto.

Please type a plus sign (+) inside this box → ☐

PTO/SB/02A (3-97)
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DECLARATION
ADDITIONAL INVENTOR(S)
Supplemental Sheet
 Page ____ of ____

Name of Additional Joint Inventor, if any:		<input type="checkbox"/> A petition has been filed for this unsigned inventor					
Given Name (first and middle [if any])				Family Name or Surname			
Inventor's Signature						Date	
Residence: City		State		Country		Citizenship	
Post Office Address							
Post Office Address							
City		State		ZIP		Country	
Name of Additional Joint Inventor, if any:		<input type="checkbox"/> A petition has been filed for this unsigned inventor					
Given Name (first and middle [if any])				Family Name or Surname			
Inventor's Signature						Date	
Residence: City		State		Country		Citizenship	
Post Office Address							
Post Office Address							
City		State		ZIP		Country	
Name of Additional Joint Inventor, if any:		<input type="checkbox"/> A petition has been filed for this unsigned inventor					
Given Name (first and middle [if any])				Family Name or Surname			
Inventor's Signature						Date	
Residence: City		State		Country		Citizenship	
Post Office Address							
Post Office Address							
City		State		ZIP		Country	

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DECLARATION — Supplemental Priority Data Sheet

[illegible]

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STATEMENT CLAIMING SMALL ENTITY STATUS (37 CFR 1.9(f) & 1.27(c))--SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN	Docket Number (Optional)
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Applicant, Patentee, or Identifier: Deep Video Imaging Limited

Application or Patent No.: WO 01/15132

Filed or Issued: Filed

Title: Control of Depth Movement for visual display with layered screens

I hereby state that I am
☐ the owner of the small business concern identified below:
☒ an official of the small business concern empowered to act on behalf of the concern identified below:

NAME OF SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN Deep Video Imaging Ltd

ADDRESS OF SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN Airport Road
Mystery Creek RD2 Hamilton New Zealand

I hereby state that the above identified small business concern qualifies as a small business concern as defined in 13 CFR Part 121 for purposes of paying reduced fees to the United States Patent and Trademark Office. Questions related to size standards for a small business concern may be directed to: Small Business Administration, Size Standards Staff, 409 Third Street, SW, Washington, DC 20416.

I hereby state that rights under contract or law have been conveyed to and remain with the small business concern identified above with regard to the invention described in:

☐ the specification filed herewith with title as listed above.
☒ the application identified above.
☐ the patent identified above.

If the rights held by the above identified small business concern are not exclusive, each individual, concern, or organization having rights in the invention must file separate statements as to their status as small entities, and no rights to the invention are held by any person, other than the inventor, who would not qualify as an independent inventor under 37 CFR 1.9(c) if that person made the invention, or by any concern which would not qualify as a small business concern under 37 CFR 1.9(d), or a nonprofit organization under 37 CFR 1.9(e).

Each person, concern, or organization having any rights in the invention is listed below:
☐ no such person, concern, or organization exists.
☒ each such person, concern, or organization is listed below. Deep Video Imaging Ltd

Separate statements are required from each named person, concern or organization having rights to the invention stating their status as small entities. (37 CFR 1.27)

I acknowledge the duty to file, in this application or patent, notification of any change in status resulting in loss of entitlement to small entity status prior to paying, or at the time of paying, the earliest of the issue fee or any maintenance fee due after the date on which status as a small entity is no longer appropriate. (37 CFR 1.28(b))

NAME OF PERSON SIGNING Mr Koro Wikepa

TITLE OF PERSON IF OTHER THAN OWNER Chief Financial Officer

ADDRESS OF PERSON SIGNING 71 Matangi Road RD4 Hamilton NZ

SIGNATURE K. Wikepa DATE 3/2/2002
0 M Y

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 0.2 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231.